

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

It is my pleasure to present the Cambridge Police Department's *Annual Crime Report 2005*, the tenth Annual Report produced during my tenure as Commissioner. The objective of this report is to give Cambridge residents a realistic view of their risk of victimization and to provide detailed information on criminal activity in our City.

The 3,814 serious crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2005 represents the City's lowest Uniform Crime Reporting Index number reported to the FBI in over forty years. The City of Cambridge has recorded fewer than 4,000 serious crimes only twice since 1960. The serious crime index had not varied from a total of between 4,350 and 4,450 in six of the past seven years. The 2005 decline of 12%, 505 fewer incidents than in 2004, represents the third largest yearly decline since 1980. Further analysis indicates that violent crime remained relatively unchanged in Cambridge in 2005 with three fewer incidents registered in the index count. The 14% decline in burglary, the 10% drop in larceny, and a 33% slide in auto theft propelled the 13% fall in property crime when compared with the 2004 figures. These results represent the past, now we must plan for the future.

The Cambridge Police Department, a first class organization remains committed to the delivery of high quality services to the City in an efficient manner, while insuring that it is a good place for our officers and civilians to work.

To accomplish this, the department embarked upon a Visioning Project in 2003. Surveys of community members and employees were conducted to assess their concerns. Community member's surveys requested more frequent contact with the police and increased visibility as well as improved community participation in problem solving with Police leadership with improved access to information regarding Police programs and services. Our employees sought an improved workplace, better internal communications, a wider application of community policing strategies, as well as access to more specialized training, greater work variety, more leadership visibility and availability.

Over the past year, the Department has successfully improved in the following areas: increased specialized training, improved access to information through the installation of our high speed computer network and a wider application of community policing with the introduction of the Command Staff Community Partnership Program. The department has initiated programs to include participation of residents in problem solving through the Neighborhood Sergeants Program. In addition, the department is working on designing and outfitting the new police station that was acquired in 2005. The entire department is committed to regular and meaningful communication with one another and with the community and simultaneously reducing the incidents of crime in Cambridge.

The *2005 Annual Crime Report* is one of the many resources the Cambridge Police Department provides to the citizens of Cambridge. We believe that we are in the top percentile of police departments in the nation in the quantity and quality of information that we provide to the public on a regular basis, and our Crime Reports have consistently won awards and accolades from international organizations. The Department will remain committed to providing timely and relevant information to the community. I urge you to visit our website at <http://www.cambridgepolice.org> for current information on crime and for important community alerts. Armed with this knowledge, the community and the Police Department can work together to develop effective strategies to ensure a high quality of life and to reduce crime and fear in the City of Cambridge.



Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner